

REMARKS

The applicant thanks Examiner Mruk for speaking with Erin Henson, an attorney for FUJIFILM Dimatix, Inc., on May 3, 2007, about amending claim 1. While a personal interview was denied, the Examiner suggested a telephone interview at a later date. Ms. Henson sent Examiner Mruk another proposed claim amendment for discussion. In a subsequent telephone call to the applicant's representative, David Feigenbaum, the Examiner indicated that claim 1, as proposed to be amended, would be patentable. The proposed amendment of claim 1 has been submitted in this reply with similar amendments of the other independent claims.

The comments of the applicant below are each preceded by related comments of the examiner (in small, bold type).

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 11, 12, 15, 19, 20, 24, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yonekubo (JP 2-61 5).

With respect to claim 1, Yonekubo discloses a drop ejector (Fig. 1, element 9), comprising:

a flow path (Fig. 3, below) in which fluid (Fig. 3, element 14) is pressurized to eject drops from a nozzle opening (Fig. 2, element 20) formed in a substantially planar substrate (Fig. 3, element 11) and lying in plane defined by a surface of the substrate (Fig. 3 below);

a radial channel (Fig. 4, element 12) formed in the substrate proximate the nozzle opening, the radial channel having dimensions configured to and being spaced from the nozzle opening a distance to draw fluid into the space defined by the radial channel, a portion of the radial channel being below the plane defined by the surface of the substrate (Fig. 3 below); and

at least one connecting channel (Fig. 4, element 13) formed in the substrate (abstract) and extending from the radial channel, the connecting channel being configured to move fluid away from the nozzle opening (abstract).

With respect to claim 2, Yonekubo discloses a drop ejector, comprising:

first and second flow paths (Figs. 3 and 4, i.e. array of each element) in which fluid (Fig. 3, element 14) is pressurized to eject drops from first and second nozzle openings (Fig. 2, element 20) formed in a substantially planar substrate (Fig. 3, element 11) and lying in a plane defined by a surface of the substrate (Fig. 3 above);

first and second radial channels (Fig. 2, array of element 12) formed in the substrate proximate the respective first and second nozzle openings (Fig. 2, element 20), the channels having dimensions and being spaced from the nozzle openings a distance configured to draw fluid into the space defined by the radial channels (abstract), a portion of the radial channels being below the plane

defined by the surface of the substrate (Fig. 3 above); and
first and second connecting channels (Fig. 2, element 13) formed in the substrate and extending from the first and second radial channels, and a third connecting channel (Fig. 2, array of element 13) connecting the first and second radial channels, the connecting channels being configured to move fluid away from the nozzle opening (abstract)

With respect to claim 12, Yonekubo discloses a method of fluid ejection (Fig. I), comprising:

ejecting a drop through the nozzle opening (Fig. 2, element 20) formed in a substrate (Fig. 3, element 11) and lying in a plane defined by a surface of the substrate (Fig. 3 above);
positioning a radial channel (Fig. 4, element 12) in the substrate proximate the nozzle opening;
providing at least one connecting channel (Fig. 4, element 13) in the substrate, the connecting channel extending from the radial channel;
drawing fluid into the radial channel during fluid ejection, the fluid moving from the radial channel into the connecting channel (abstract), a portion of the radial channel being below the plane defined by the surface of the substrate (Fig. 3 above).

All of the amended claims are patentable for at least similar reasons as those for the claims on which they depend are patentable.

Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Any circumstance in which the applicant has (a) addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner, (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims, or (c) amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Applicant : John C. Batterton et al.
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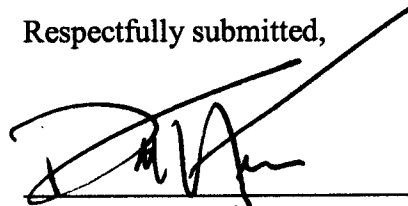
Attorney's Docket No.: 09991-151001

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Date: _____

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Feigenbaum', is written over a horizontal line. A long, diagonal stroke extends from the top right of the signature across the line.

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